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BLACKBURN  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

for 1953

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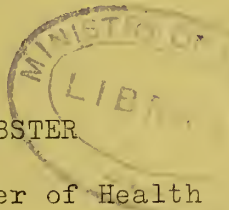
R. C. WEBSTER

Medical Officer of Health

G. R. WHITE

Senior Sanitary Inspector  
Meat and Food Inspector

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR 1953

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Chairman of the Council:  
H. RYDEN, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman

D. SMITH, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee:  
W. H. WIDDERS, Esq.

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Councillors.

Parish	Councillor.
Balderstone.....	J. WRIGHT, Esq.
Billington.....	J. HARGREAVES, Esq. W. SYKES, Esq.
Clayton-le-Dale.....	J. AINSWORTH, Esq.
Dinckley.....	J. W. BREWER, Esq.
Eccleshill.....	D. SMITH, Esq., J.P.
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Tockholes.....	J. CROSS, Esq.
Wilpshire.....	H. RYDEN, Esq., J.P.
Yate & Pickup Bank.....	J. YATES, Esq., J.P.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

Meat and Food Inspector:

G. R. WHITE, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

42 Wellington Street, (St. John's),  
Blackburn.

October, 1954.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1953. During the year there has been little that calls for special comment and this is a satisfactory state of affairs. The problem of water supply for the village of Tockholes is mentioned in the report, it has been given thought, and both the map and the actual conditions on the ground have been studied. It is difficult to see a solution at any reasonable cost. The ground contours raise particular difficulties.

I wish to thank the Clerk of the Council, Mr White, Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their co-operation throughout the year, and yourself Mr Chairman and members for your friendly interest and good will.

Yours obediently

R. C. WEBSTER.

Medical Officer of Health.

# NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF

## THE AREA

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Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,472
Rateable Value (1st April, 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£84,276
Estimated Product of 1d Rate...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£338
Population Census 1951...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,245
Resident Population mid-1953							
(Registrar-General's Estimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,330
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.4
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.2

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Blackburn Rural District lies to the North, West and South of the County Borough of Blackburn and its population of 13,330 live in two different types of community. The large parishes adjacent to Blackburn are urban in character, although each still retains its separate community life. The rest of the area is dotted with small villages truly rural in type. Most of the area lies in the Ribble Valley and is given over to pasture and meadowland. In the immediate prewar years there was a growing intensity for town dwellers to move into rural areas, e.g. the parish of Wilpshire which is wholly residential increased its population 20% during the years 1931/1951. The Council has developed housing estates in parishes where industrial employment is available and as an example the population of the parish of Livesey has been increased by 20%. The easing of restrictions on building licences during 1953 has already started much private development in the area.

The Census figures of 1951 which are tabulated in this report also reveal that during the years 1931-1951 there has been a noticeable reduction in the population of those parishes which are sparsely populated and wholly agricultural e.g. Balderstone 19% Tockholes 13% and Yate and Pickup Bank 37%. Much of the property in each of these three parishes is very substandard.

The Ordnance Datum varies from 150 to 1050.

### Vital Statistics

There were 139 live births and 3 still births registered during 1953 and 167 deaths from all causes. The birthrate increased slightly from 11.8 to 12.2 per thousand population (England and Wales 15.5) The deathrate increased from 11.1 to 12.4 per thousand population (compared with England and Wales 11.4). The low birthrate and the slightly above average deathrate is explained by the fact that much of the population is made up of retired persons.

The main causes of death were heart disease, cancer and vascular disease of the nervous system. It is interesting to note that 55% of all deaths took place at the age of 65 and over, 38% at 75 and over and 7% at 85 or over.

### Infectious Diseases

There were 121 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, the largest number were of Measles (48) and Scarlet Fever (36) Whooping Cough (20). 7 cases of infectious disease were removed to hospital.

#### Scarlet Fever

30 out of 36 cases were of children attending school, all cases were mild in type and there were no deaths.



### Tuberculosis

There were 13 new cases notified in 1953 compared with 21 in 1952, 5 of these were pulmonary in type (4 females, 1 male). There were 4 deaths in 1953 compared with 3 in 1952. At the end of December there were 54 cases on the register, a decrease of 6 since the end of 1952.

### Housing

Although 198 houses have been erected by the Council since the end of the war there are still 250 names of applicants on the waiting list. All of these applicants either live or work in the Rural District. At the close of the year 61 houses were in course of erection. It is pleasing to record that the Council are providing more 'Old People Bungalows' on the Housing Estates.

Action taken under the Housing Acts to relieve conditions brought to light by the Rural Housing Survey made in 1948 has been very limited. Provision has been made in the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill for a resumption of slum clearance action and for improved financial assistance to property owners to carry out improvements. Provision has also been made for local authorities to close houses on vacation pending demolition of adjacent property.

### Water Supplies

Mr White points out that 81% of houses in the district have supplies from public mains and having regard to the special difficulties of a rural area with some isolated houses this is a satisfactory overall picture. But there are areas and there are houses for which the position is unsatisfactory. Especially to be noted are the parish of Tockholes and the temporary or semi-permanent structures in Haggs Hall Fields. There are other individual houses or small groups of houses also without mains supplies. But the natural difficulties are very great. It must be admitted that our infectious disease records show no serious results but the possibilities are dangerous enough. At the same time one cannot see that it is practicable to bring mains supplies at any reasonable cost to some of these places. For some of them a piped supply is as impracticable as it would be in a desert or on a mountain top and really the difficulty is in the "nature of things".

### Medical Examination

During the year 4 employees were examined as to fitness to enter the Council's Superannuation Scheme.

### National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action has been taken by the Council under section 47 of this act.

### Local Health Services

The Public Health Services provided by the Lancashire County Council are controlled locally by Divisional Health Committees composed of local representatives. Blackburn Rural District lies in Health Division No.5 and the office of the Medical Officer of Health is undertaken together with that of Divisional Medical Officer who operates both the County Councils Public Health and School Medical Services.

Nursing Staff includes Health Visitors, School Nurses, Midwives and District Nurses. The services operated by No.5 Divisional Health Committee include:- Ambulances, Clinics (Ante-Natal, Child Welfare) School (Minor ailments) Clinics, Dental Clinics, Orthopaedic Clinics Ophthalmic Clinics, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics, U.V.R. (Artificial sunlight) Clinics, Immunisation Clinics, Child Guidance Clinics.

The provision of clinics for a rural area present special difficulties. In areas with scattered populations there obviously are problems in providing a full service.

Ambulance Service. This service is provided without charge and generally a doctors certificate is necessary (except in cases of emergency). The district is covered by ambulances from either Blackburn (Blackburn 44130), Darwen (Darwen 48 or 694), Gt. Harwood (Gt. Harwood 3294).

Ante-Natal Clinics. There are no clinics held in the Blackburn Rural District although advice can be obtained from the doctor attending the Child Welfare Clinics at Feniscowles, Whalley and Darwen. Clinics held at Darwen and Rishton may be convenient for some residents of the Rural District.

Darwen (Civic Health Centre Union Street)	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and Wednesday afternoons (2 p.m.)
Rishton (108 High Street)	Wednesday mornings (9.0 a.m.)

Child Welfare Clinics. Where mothers may attend with their children for medical examination and for the purchase of infant welfare foods are held as follows:-

Feniscowles (Mission Hall)	Tuesday afternoons ( 2.0 p.m.)
Whalley (Methodist School)	Monday afternoons ( 2.0 p.m.)
Darwen (Civic Health Centre Union Street)	Monday and Thursday afternoons (2.0 p.m.)

Services for Children of School age.

Minor Ailments Clinic.

County Council Clinic Lord St. Blackburn.	1st Wednesday each month at 2.0 p.m.
School Clinic, 108 High St., Rishton.	Monday and Friday mornings.
Civic Health Centre, Union St., Darwen.	Monday to Friday mornings and afternoons.

Dental Clinics.

County Council Clinic, Lord St, Blackburn.	1st Tuesday each month mornings and afternoons.
County Council Clinic, 108 High St, Rishton.	Appointments, Gt. Harwood 3177.

Specialist Treatment.

Facilities are available for Specialist examination and treatment of children suffering from eye defects, diseases of ear, nose and throat, orthopaedic defects, for treatment by artificial sunlight or child guidance. Children are first seen at Child Welfare or Minor Ailment clinics or at School Medical Inspections and the appropriate arrangements are made.

Immunisation.

Immunisations are carried out at the Child Welfare or Minor Ailments Clinics. They can also be undertaken by the family doctor.

### Midwives.

The midwives serving the area are as follows:-

Miss F. I. Grundy, District Nurses Home, Branch Rd, Mellor.	Mellor. 313.
Miss M. I. Lytle, 19 Calder Avenue, Billington.	Whalley. 3113.
District Nurses Home, 56/62 Bolton Road, Darwen.	Darwen. 151.

### Home Nursing.

The services of the District Nurses are available on the family doctors recommendation. Nursing requisites are available free on loan from any of the District Nurses.

Miss E. Blundell of 10 Jersey St, Livesey (Blackburn 49415) covers the parish of Livesey.

The midwives from Darwen, Mellor and Billington cover the rest of the area.

Home Helps. This service is provided in case of sickness or infirmity and arrangements are made with the Home Help Supervisor at the Divisional Health Office. This is not a free service but charges are made according to the circumstances of the applicant.

Hostels for Elderly People. Elderly persons who are in need of care and attention within the meaning of National Assistance Act can be provided with residential accommodation at a charge not exceeding 80/6d per week, the actual charge being based on the applicant's circumstances. Steps are being taken to provide for accommodation. Application should be made to the Divisional Health Office.

Bling Persons Act. Those who wish to apply for Bling Pensions can secure a specialist examination.

Mental Health. The Division has two duly Authorised Officers and a women Mental Health worker who make arrangements for the removal of persons suffering from mental illness, to suitable hospitals. Arrangements are made through the patient's own doctor.

Hospital Service. The County Council has NO control over hospitals, these are administered by the Regional Hospital Board. In the case of admission to Maternity Hospitals and Homes, the demand is so great that as a rule only those having their first baby or those who have unsuitable home circumstances or some medical reason making hospital delivery essential are accepted. The Hospital Authorities request the Divisional Medical Officer for a report on these points and on this report the Hospital Authority agrees to accept or decline to book an expectant mother. The Divisional Medical Officer is informed as to the facts by the health visitors and midwives, and from his knowledge of the medical facts, whether from his own or his assistants examination at Ante-Natal Clinics, or reports received from the patient's own doctor.

Much confusion exists as to hospital accommodation for chronic cases of illness often in elderly people. The County Council has NO control over such admission; this is governed by the Regional Hospital Board. It has been arranged that with the aid of a report from a Health Visitor the Divisional Medical Officer will advise the hospital authority as to the urgency in cases of chronic circumstances.



# STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953

## Vital Statistics for the Year 1953

(Population - Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-1953: 13,330)

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births - Legitimate	131	73	58
Illegitimate	8	4	4
Total	<u>139</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>62</u>
	Blackburn R. D. C.	England & Wales	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population, mid-1953	12.2	15.5	
Still Births per 1,000 of estimated Population	0.22	0.35	
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population	12.4	11.4	
Deaths from puerperal causes -			
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis		Nil	
Other maternal causes		Nil	
Total maternal mortality		Nil	
Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		Nil	
Death Rate of infants under one year of age -			
All infants per 1,000 live births		29	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		23	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births		125	
Death rate from Cancer per 1,000 of estimated population	2.40		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	32		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil		

# CAUSES OF DEATH.

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Causes</u>	93	74	167
1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	3	4
2. Other Tuberculosis Diseases	-	1	1
3. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other Infective Diseases	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	6	1	7
11.       "       "       lung	6	-	6
12.       "       "       breast	-	1	1
13.       "       "       uterus	-	-	-
14.       "       "       others	10	6	16
15. Leukaemia	2	-	2
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Lesions of Nervous System	6	5	11
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	13	3	16
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	2	4
20. Other Heart Diseases	12	21	33
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	1	3	4
22. Influenza	-	1	1
23. Pneumonia	5	1	6
24. Bronchitis	6	7	13
25. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	-	2
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	3	3	6
32. Other Diseases	10	10	20
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
34. All other accidents	1	2	3
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide	-	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Cases admitted to Hospital
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	36	-	-	3	27	3	-	1	1	1	5
Measles	48	1	9	11	22	1	3	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	20	2	3	4	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	6	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	5	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	121	4	12	19	62	10	6	4	3	1	7

# Tuberculosis

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp		Non-Resp		Resp		Non-Resp	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-
20 -	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
45 -	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	4	3	5	2	2	0	0
	5		8		4		0	

No cases of Tuberculosis which had not been notified came to light.

## New Housing

### Waiting List.

Applicants to 31st December, 1953 Residents in area 250

### Local Authority Houses.

Position at 1st January, 1953

Prewar - 80

Postwar - 198

Postwar Housing Programme, Total Proposed Houses 337

Houses erected by Local Authority during 1953 38

Houses under construction by Local Authority at end of 1953. 61

### Houses erected by private enterprise

Postwar to January, 1953 48

Completed during 1953 15



42 Wellington Street, (St. John's),  
Blackburn.

October, 1954.

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my fifth Annual Report which covers the work of the Department for the year 1953.

There was no major change in legislation during the year although in November a white paper entitled "Houses the next Step" was presented to Parliament. This paper summarised the housing problems facing Local Authorities and the government proposals for a Housing Repairs and Rents Bill.

Attention has been given during the year to cleanliness in food premises. Many of the catering premises in the area are of a poor standard and early legislation presenting standards or codes of practice for these premises is necessary.

I am grateful to the officials and staff for the help I have received throughout the year, and to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

G. R. WHITE.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supplies

Four fifths of the properties in the area are connected to a public mains supply and every parish with one exception - Tockholes is provided for. 70% of the cottages in Tockholes are beyond repair or improvement at reasonable cost and the parish is so undulating and sparsely populated that the cost of providing a public mains supply would be prohibitive. There are a number of small localities where cost prohibits a mains supply i.e. Clayton-le-Dale (Showley Road 12 houses), Pleasington (Woodcock Hill 25 houses), Livesey (Black Bull area 41 houses), Ramsgreave (Haggs Hall Fields 12 houses) and Pickup Bank (53 houses). In the case of Haggs Hall Fields, Ramsgreave most of the properties are wooden huts and should be condemned for living purposes in the near future. With regard to other localities whilst the cost of laying mains may be prohibitive the water rate charges are very low compared with gas and electricity charges - all the houses referred to above (excepting Haggs Hall Fields) have electricity installed and some have gas mains. Electricity was at one time a local authority service without cost to the rates yet the provision of water mains remains a charge on the local authority with a small rate charge on the user for water supplied.

Routine samples of water from public mains is carried out and occasional checks are made of wells supplying private dwellings. During the year 21 samples from public mains were submitted for bacteriological analysis. 17 of these were satisfactory, of the 4 unsatisfactory reports 3 were from dead end mains and a repeat sample of the fourth was satisfactory. 12 samples of water from private supplies were submitted for bacteriological analysis and of these 8 were found to be unsatisfactory. In these cases owners were asked to provide piped supplies, install chlorinating equipment or carry out repairs to wells.

3 samples of mains water were submitted to the Public Analyst for Chemical Examination. Two samples were unsatisfactory in that they showed an excessive amount of lead namely 0.8 parts per million. The usually accepted standard for a potable water is 0.3 parts per million. In these 3 samples the pH values were 6.6 - 6.5 - 6.4. The source of supply is upland surface water and the water is acid in reaction. Although lime is added to the supply by the statutory water undertakers the action of the lime is to a certain extent diminished by the deposits in the mains. During heavy rains in the collecting areas the water supply is heavily discoloured with peat and other matter in suspension.

### Drainage and Sewerage

There are seven separate Sewage Disposal works in the area serving the major parts of the parishes of Livesey, Billington, Pleasington and Wilpshire and parts of Salesbury, Clayton-le-Dale, Eccleshill and Balderstone. Langho Colony is also served by these works. The method of treatment adopted is by preliminary sedimentation, septic tanks and sprinkler filtration or by land irrigation.

A comprehensive scheme for extensions and new sewage disposal works costing £150,000 which was prepared by the Council's Consultant Engineer has been approved in principle by the Council.

#### Billington etc. Sewage Scheme.

The sewers and 3 sewage works which serve the parishes of Billington and Wilpshire are considerably overloaded. A combined scheme for the resewering of this area and for the sewerage of the parishes of Clayton-le-Dale and Salesbury has been prepared. The scheme provided for the abandonment of the 3 sewerage works and the construction of a new works. When this scheme was submitted to the Ministry in 1949 the

estimated cost was £66,800. Owing to a ban on national expenditure the Ministry have been unable to sanction the scheme and since it was first submitted the estimated cost has increased by £35,200.

#### Mellor Sewerage Scheme.

Stage 1 of the Council's re-sewering scheme was almost completed by the end of the year and the bulk of the Mellor sewage is now satisfactorily treated.

Stage 2 (estimated cost £18,550) of the Mellor re-sewering scheme provides for low level sewers, a pumping station and rising mains to serve the Mellor Brook area. This part of the scheme has been deferred for the time being on account of government policy restricting capital expenditure.

#### Eccleshill Sewerage Scheme.

Stage 2 of the Council's re-sewering scheme was well in hand at the end of 1953. This provides for the sewerage of a Council Housing Estate of 50 houses together with other property in the vicinity of Eccleshill.

Stage 1 of the scheme provided for the abandonment of the Eccleshill disposal works (land irrigation), the provision of a pump house and rising mains so as to discharge all sewerage to the works of the Darwen Corporation. It is expected that this work will be put in hand at an early date.

#### Public Cleansing Service.

Much improvement in Public Cleansing has been made in this area during the post war years and it is hoped that this progressive policy will continue. The changes that have taken place from the conversion of privy middens and pail closets, scavenging of parishes by local farmers using horse drawn carts and giving infrequent collections have resulted in a more frequent and hygienic service which the public at large enjoy today.

It has become a service from which one receives more regular attention than any other, inspite of adverse conditions of weather. The cleansing department is equipped with 3 modern refuse vehicles designed for municipal work, and the baling of paper is electrically operated. The workmen are provided with 3 sets of protective overalls each year.

During 1953 there were further improvements in wages but with fuller employment it was difficult to find men willing to undertake the work. The collection and disposal of refuse and nightsoil is hard and uncongenial work necessitating employment of men of good physique.

#### Refuse Collection

The council have two Dennis, side loading refuse wagons, the oldest being purchased in 1948, and the work of the department is assisted by a Ford Thames 2/3 tons truck. All wagons are worked to capacity.

In November 1952 the Council instituted a weekly collection of refuse in all the most populated parts of the area in lieu of a fortnightly collection. The change was made without the employment of additional men or vehicles and resulted in reduced mileage. Inspite of labour difficulties and frequent changes of staff there was no breakdown in the frequency of the service.

7 contracts with private collectors involving 135 houses are still in operation in scattered localities. In all these cases roads are so bad that they are only traversable by farm tractors.



### Refuse Disposal

For a number of years refuse was disposed of by crude dumping in several disused quarries all of which became infested by insects and rats. There are now only two refuse dumps in use and a system of controlled tipping is in operation. Occasionally farmers are assisted by the in-filling of pits and levelling of land. Obtaining covering materials for tips continues to be a source of worry and the hand loading of soil and ashes is slow and hard work. Soil in sufficient quantities is at times almost unobtainable and as a substitute for soil it is necessary to collect clinkers from factory furnaces in the area.

The composition of house refuse in the last winter has somewhat changed due to the fixing of slow combustion fires and the use of nutty slack. The residue from the grates of 'all night' burning fires is put into the dustbin red hot and is a potential fire hazard on refuse tips.

### Nightsoil Collection and Disposal.

Collection of Nightsoil is carried out weekly from 597 houses scattered throughout the whole of the district, the disposal is by dumping in a lagoon on a farm. The nightsoil is composted with flue dust and straw and after about 6 months weathering, it is spread on the land.

Nightsoil is collected in a wooden tank in the body of a refuse collection vehicle and frequent complaints are made of the nuisance from smell and splashing. The depot where the tank is kept also has an unpleasant odour. It is pleasing to record that towards the end of the year the Council invited tenders for the supply of a Cesspool Emptying machine with nightsoil attachment to replace the present wooden nightsoil tank. This will provide a more hygienic system of collection and it will be possible to dispose of the nightsoil into the sewers.

For many years the Council have made grants towards pail closet conversions so as to reduce the number to be emptied by the Cleansing Department. During 1953 it was decided to increase this payment so as to compare with present day costs. The grant is now half the cost of the conversion with a maximum payment of £15.

### Emptying of Cesspools.

The Council do not undertake the emptying of cesspools in the area. With the purchase of a Cesspool Machine in 1954 for use primarily on nightsoil collection it is hoped that it may be possible to empty a few cesspools each week. With the present number of employees it will not be possible to empty more than 2 or 3 weekly but with an extra workman the Council could offer a service of maintenance of cesspools and septic tanks and the unblocking of drains. The cost of a workman could be more than covered by a reasonable charge for the service.

### Salvaged Materials.

241 tons of salvage were collected and sold during the year. This is equal to 1 ton of salvage for each working day - quite an achievement when one considers that of the 12 men employed in the Cleansing Department only 8 men are actually concerned in the collection of house refuse. Towards the end of 1952 and early 1953 there was a serious drop in the value of salvaged materials but it is satisfactory to note that conditions are now stable and that during the year the revenue was £1,509. Waste paper is the principal material salvaged by Local Authorities and 115 tons were sold during the year. 70 tons of scrap iron and 49 tons of kitchen waste were also disposed of. 1953 was a record year for tonnage of salvage collected but it is a maximum amount as the yield is limited by the frequency of collection and the number of houses served.

There are 80 communal street bins in various parts of the district for the collection of kitchen waste. It is an easy and economical means of bulk collection and it has one good feature in that it reduces the



amount of putrescible matter in the dustbins and on the tips. The bins are, however, far too prominent in the public eye to escape severe criticism and are not very hygienic.

#### Provision of Dustbins

The efficiency of a refuse collection service depends to a large extent on the type of dustbin provided. It is quite common to see on the public highway a collection of almost every conceivable receptacle which could be used for the storage of refuse. True the Local Authority may by statutory notice require the provision of a proper galvanised receptacle by either the tenant or the owner of the property - it is however within their power to supply to every house as a direct charge on the rates a satisfactory container of whatever size they may wish to have. This scheme could be provided at a cost of little more than a penny rate and would give a more hygienic and easier service to operate.

The Council do purchase galvanised dustbins of a heavy pattern for resale to owners and householders in the area.

#### Rodent Control

A Rodent Operative is employed in the search for rats and the treatment of infestations found. In order to encourage the notifications of rat infestation by owners or occupiers of private dwellings, the Council provide a free service and the Ministry of Agriculture reimburse 50% of the cost. A charge covering the whole of the cost plus 20% for administrative purposes was made for the work done on business premises. The Ministry of Agriculture contributes a 50% grant towards the cost of sewer treatment.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries a survey was made of most of the farms in the area. In few instances were there any serious infestation and the farmers were approached by the County Agricultural Committee with a view to arrangements being made for treatment.

Test baiting of sewers was carried out on instructions from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. This involves test baiting only 10% of the manholes in the area compared with a treatment of all manholes as previously undertaken. It will be seen from previous reports that there are about 270 manholes in the area and about half of these have never been and are unlikely to become infested by rats. The remaining half are frequently infested but with test baiting only a proportion of all manholes are covered. It would therefore be possible for some manholes to miss treatment for several years during which time they could become seriously infested.

As in previous years the only locality where sewers are badly infested is Cherry Tree. This is no doubt caused by old sewers and the proximity of the canal and industrial establishments. The banks of the Leeds and Liverpool canal had again become infested and a further treatment was carried out.

#### TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

A survey of moveable dwellings in the area taken in 1949 revealed 104 caravans, all on isolated sites along the banks of streams and rivers. Arising out of this survey the Council secured the demolition or removal of 34 undesirable structures by enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Acts. Many of the remaining caravans were concentrated on two licensed camping sites. Site standards have been adopted by the Council requiring the provision of proper drainage, water supply and other communal facilities. There are 2 licensed sites in the area providing accommodation for 60 motor trailer caravans. 16 licenses were issued in 1953 for caravans on individual sites.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT SCHOOLS

There are 12 schools in the area and 11 of these have a piped supply of water. At 3 schools the sanitary accommodation comprises pail closets, 1 school has trough closets and 8 schools have water closets. Of the 8 schools with water closets 3 can only be flushed by the caretaker from a water storage tank.

In 1949 the managers of 3 schools were asked to make improvements to the sanitary accommodation and in 2 cases modern sanitary blocks were completed in 1953. In the case where trough closets are in use no action was taken yet almost without exception the children at this school have proper water closets at their homes.

There is a real need for the education authorities to investigate the sanitary conveniences and washing facilities at the schools in the area. It is essential that this accommodation should be as near perfection as possible as it is during school life that a child can be trained and guided in the forming of good habits.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are 12 factory chimneys in the area and in 6 cases smoke observations were taken, 2 of these showed excessive emissions. For several years smoke emissions have been excessive but the nuisances created during 1953 have not been so flagrant. There has been some improvement in the fuel supplied to the factories and a number of mills are in process of converting to individual electric motors.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Milk Supply

17 samples of milk were taken from retailers in the area and in no case was the result unsatisfactory. 13 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination to detect tuberculosis and all were reported negative.

### Ice Cream

There are 33 retailers premises on the Council's register and during the year the licence of one retailer was revoked because the holder was serving petrol at the same time as ice cream without using the washing facilities available. 22 Samples of Ice Cream were taken from retailers and of these 15 were satisfactory and 7 unsatisfactory.

### Meat Inspection

There was 100% inspections of all animals slaughtered in the area. Most of these were killed at a licensed Slaughterhouse which is attached to the farm buildings of an Institution within the District. Numbers of pigs are slaughtered occasionally under Ministry of Food licences at various farms and other premises.

### Other Food Preparing Premises.

Priority of inspections has always been given to the preparation and handling of Meat, Ice Cream and Milk and few inspections could be made to restaurant kitchens, wayside cafes and other food premises. The Council have adopted byelaws to secure sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and these byelaws came into force in 1950.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING  
THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY  
AND OTHER WORK.

Inspections under the Public Health Act.	196
Inspections under the Housing Act.	94
Inspections and revisits to Moveable Dwellings.	119
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases.	72
Rooms Disinfected.	30
Inspections of Daires and Milk Sampling.	24
Inspections of Slaughterhouses.	40
Inspections of Meat Shops.	8
Inspections of Bakehouses.	9
Inspections of Provision Shops.	11
Inspections of Fried Fish Shops.	6
Inspections of Ice-Cream Premises.	47
Inspections of Restaurant Kitchens.	28
Inspections of Factories (other than Bakehouses).	23
Inspections of Schools.	22
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes.	476
Inspections of Drains.	167
Inspections in connection with Water Supplies.	77
Samples of Water taken for Analysis.	37
Inspections under Petroleum Acts.	23
Inspections in connection with Rodent Control.	362
Smoke Observations.	6
Other Visits interviewing owners etc.	128
Total.	1805

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	-	22	45	77	17
Number inspected	-	22	45	77	17
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	2	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	7	1	13	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	-	40.9%	2.2%	16.9%	NIL.

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned.	-	2	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	11	-	-	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	59.1%	NIL	NIL	29.3%



## HOUSING INSPECTIONS

### Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Act).	139
Number of inspections made for the purpose.	179
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 to 1932.	79
Number of inspections made for the purpose	94
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	27
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	84

### Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	31
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### Action of statutory powers during the year:-

(a) Proceeding under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owner	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners	-
(b) Proceeding under Public Health Acts:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied:-	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owner	3
(b) By local authority in default of owners	

### Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding:-

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	Nil.
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	Nil.
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.	Nil.
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	Nil.



# RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

The survey of working class dwellings was completed in 1948 and the following are the complete figures for the survey:-

No. of inhabited houses (all classes) at 31st December, 1947	3509	
No. of working class houses	2673	
		% of total inspected
No. of working class houses:-		↓
1. fit in all respects	295	11.04
2. requiring minor repairs	847	31.69
3. requiring structural alterations	737	27.57
4. occupied by agricultural workers and requiring structural alterations	343	12.83
5. unfit for habitation.	451	16.87
No. of working class houses about which free circulation of air is retarded		462
No. with inadequate through or cross ventilation		77
No. which are badly lighted		777
No. with insufficient height in the rooms		443
No. not connected to a Public sewer		834
No. not having a fresh water closet.		807
No. without sufficient washing accommodation		673
No. without sufficient cooking accommodation		109
No. without an adequate pantry		1712
No. with insanitary or defective sink		286
No. not having a Public water supply laid on		505
No. not having a piped supply of hot water		1061
No. not having a fixed bath		1357
No. being in unsatisfactory state of repair		842
No. showing dampness within the house		1485
No. not having adequate system of artificial lighting		259
No. not having separate access from staircase or landing for each bedroom		304
No. of overcrowded houses (total, years 1945-1948)		25

# WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private supplies	
	Direct to houses		By means of standpipe		e.g. wells, springs etc.	
	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population.	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population.	No. of dwelling houses.	No. of population.
1. Balderstone	80	240	-	-	35	114
2. Billington	645	3921	-	-	90	250
3. Clayton-le-Dale	177	507	-	-	21	60
4. Dinckley	22	74	-	-	4	14
5. Eccleshill	93	265	-	-	9	27
6. Livesey	793	2147	-	-	94	250
7. Mellor	365	1014	4	14	57	182
8. Osbaldeston	49	182	-	-	10	37
9. Pleasington	123	395	-	-	53	170
10. Ramsgreave	235	653	-	-	41	114
11. Salesbury	110	288	-	-	9	24
12. Tockholes	-	-	-	-	140	369
13. Wilpshire	336	1591	-	-	30	142
14. Yate & Pickup Bank	30	76	-	-	83	210
Total	3058	11353	4	14	676	1963
Whole District						

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN THE DISTRICT

Privy Middens	Nil.
Pail Closets	555
Ashpits	Nil
No. of houses with Fresh Water Closets	3187
No. of houses with Waste Water Closets	67
No. of houses with Moveable Ashbins	3379
Pail Closets converted into Fresh Water Closets	42

# RODENT CONTROL

## Sewer Maintenance Treatment.

### First Half Year

(Zinc Phosphide and Sausage Rusk)

15 manholes baited

4 manholes showing prebait take

2 manholes showing complete take.

### Second Half Year

(Arsenic and Bread Mash)

21 manholes baited

7 manholes showing prebait take

5 manholes showing complete take.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

### Report for the Year 1953.

	Local Authority Properties	Dwelling Houses	Agricul tural Premises	Business Premises	Totals
No. of properties in district.	18	3267	352	236	3873
No. of properties inspected.					
(a) As a result of complaint	2	36	7	8	53
(b) Routine inspections	23	22	12	24	71
No. found infested by rats					
(a) Major infestation	4	-	-	5	9
(b) Minor           "	8	28	10	13	59
No. found seriously infested by mice	2	12	-	6	20
No. of infested premises treated by Council.	14	38	6	24	82

Public Cleansing.

The following figures summarise the amount of refuse collected by direct labour and contractors during the year:-

<u>Visits to Premises</u>	<u>Pans Emptied</u>	<u>Bins Emptied</u>	<u>Loads</u>	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>
				<u>Estimated</u>		
167,979	26,050	141,929	1785	4169.	6.	1.

Salvage.

The following weights of salvaged materials were collected and sold during the year.

Materials

	<u>Quantity</u>				<u>Value</u>		
	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Paper	114.	12.	1.	-.	810.	6.	5.
Kitchen Waste	48.	19.	2.	-.	193.	5.	7.
Textiles	5.	15.	-.	10.	131.	2.	10.
Copper	-.	2.	1.	6.	11.	13.	9.
Scrap Iron	69.	15.	2.	-.	267.	18.	-.
Brass and Zinc	-.	1.	2.	22.	5.	11.	8.
Aluminium	-.	3.	2.	6.	11.	12.	7.
Lead	-.	2.	1.	19.	9.	-.	4.
Bottles and Jars	1.	14.	-.	8.	10.	12.	-.
Carriage on Paper					34.	16.	-.
Carriage on Kitchen Waste					21.	17.	5.
Total	241.	6.	-.	15.	1507.	16.	7.
Profit on Dustbins for the Year.					8.	5.	2.
					£1516.	1.	9.



TONNAGE AND REVENUE FROM SALVAGE COLLECTED BY

BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

SALVAGE	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Waste Paper	47	51	50	59	72	86	108	90	115
Kitchen Waste	44	46	56	58	59	56	58	53	49
Rags	7	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	4	4	4	8	6
Non-Ferrous Metals	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Scrap Iron	-	5	2	3	-	-	39	51	70
Jam Jars	3	3	3	4	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	3	1
TOTALS	101 $\frac{1}{4}$	111 $\frac{1}{4}$	115 $\frac{3}{4}$	128 $\frac{1}{4}$	135 $\frac{1}{4}$	149	217 $\frac{1}{2}$	203 $\frac{1}{2}$	241 $\frac{1}{2}$
REVENUE	£536	£632	£652	£705	£745	£950	£2,600	£1,717	£1,508

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1953 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BLACKBURN IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspection (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	6	6	2	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	38	26	4	-	2
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers premises).	3	3	-	-	-	3
TOTAL		47	32	6	-	

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred To H.M. By H.M.		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Inspection tor (5)	Inspection tor (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	2	2	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.7)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	1	1	-	-	-	9
(a) Insufficient	10	2	2	-	-	-	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	1	1	-	-	-	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home-work)							
TOTAL	60	6	6	-	-	-	60



